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B I L L

TO

Provide for the Election of Poor Law Guardians in Ireland A.D. 1878.  
by Ballot.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to provide that in all contested elections for Poor Law Guardians in Ireland the poll shall be taken by ballot, and that every elector entitled to vote thereat shall do so in his own proper person :

5 Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1. Every contested election of any Poor Law Guardians or  
10 Guardian that shall take place after *the first day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine* shall be conducted by ballot, and the poll at every such election shall, so far as circumstances admit, be taken in the manner now prescribed by law for taking the poll at contested municipal elections in Ireland.

*From 1st March 1879 elections to be conducted by ballot.*

15 2. Before *the first of October next* the Local Government Board of Ireland shall frame such general regulations for the management of elections of Poor Law Guardians as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act, with similar penalties for the breach of such regulations as are now provided by the law regulating  
20 municipal elections in Ireland. They shall by such regulations prescribe and appoint the person who is to be returning officer at such elections, and the place at which the polling is to take place, and they may also make such regulations as they shall think fit for regulating the mode of nominating candidates, the interval that  
25 is to elapse between the nomination and the poll, and all such other matters as may be necessary to provide for the management of such elections. All such regulations shall be made by sealed order, and may from time to time be varied and repealed, and new regulations made by sealed order.

*Local Government Board to frame regulations by sealed order.*

[Bill 17.]

A.D. 1878.

Voters to  
vote in  
person.

One polling  
place for  
each electoral  
division.

Voter to  
receive a  
number of  
ballot papers  
equal to the  
number of  
his votes, and  
may accumu-  
late them if  
he thinks fit.

School houses,  
constabulary  
barracks, &c.  
may be used  
for taking the  
poll at poor  
law elections.

Saving cer-  
tain powers  
of Local  
Government  
Board.

Short title.

3. Provided always that any person voting at such election shall, in order to give his vote, attend in person at the place appointed for the polling.

4. One polling place and no more shall be appointed for each electoral division.

5. If any person is entitled to more than one vote at any one election he shall be entitled to receive a number of separate ballot papers equal to the number of votes which he is entitled to give, and he shall be entitled to deposit each and all such ballot papers in the box in the same manner to all intents and purposes as if he were giving a single vote for each separate ballot paper.

6. The returning officer at an election for a Poor Law Guardian in Ireland may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking a poll at such election, any room in any national school house, constabulary barracks or court or sessions house in Ireland which may be convenient for the purpose.

7. Nothing herein-contained shall alter or abridge any power now vested in the Local Government Board of regulating such elections in any manner not inconsistent under this Act.

8. This Act may be cited as the Poor Law Guardians Elections Ireland Act, 1878.